

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 between Group I, claims 1-18 (drawn to a trim press article handling apparatus), and Group II, claims 19-22 (drawn to a method for delivering web-supported articles between dies and punches of a trim press). Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-18, for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 19-22 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 5 and 17 have been amended. New claims 23-31 have been added.

Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional, continuation, and/or continuation-in-part applications covering the non-elected claims 19-22.

Examiner Teleconference

Applicant wishes to acknowledge the call from the Examiner on May 3, 2002 in which the Examiner requested an oral election to the above restriction requirement. However, no election was made at that time. An election is made herein.

CONCLUSION

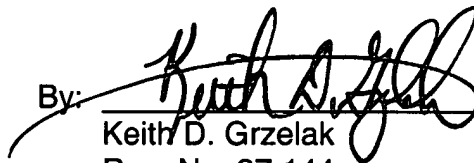
For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the

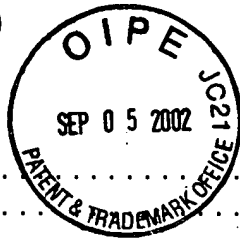
Appl. No. 09/686,714

undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/05/02

By: 
Keith D. Grzelak
Reg. No. 37,144



Application Serial No. : 09/686,714
Filing Date : 10/10/2000
Inventor : Jere F. Irwin
Assignee : None
Group Art Unit : 3724
Examiner : Stephen Choi
Attorney's Docket No. : IR3-012
Title: "Apparatus for Conveying, Guiding, and Locating a Thermoformable Web" (as amended)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING
RESPONSE TO 05/07/02 OFFICE ACTION**

In the Specification

The replacement specification paragraphs incorporate the following amendments.

Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

The title has been amended as follows:

"Apparatus ~~and Method~~ for Conveying, Guiding, and Locating
a Thermoformable Web"

The paragraph beginning at line 15 on page 2 has been amended as follows:

A treadle device is provided for conveying, guiding, and locating web-supported articles or products during a web processing operation. More particularly, a treadle assembly guides web-supported articles into a trim press prior to and while severing the articles from the web. Such treadle device provides accurate location of articles while moving the web ~~while~~ and reducing frictional forces generated between the treadle and web which would otherwise result in an increased occurrence of mis-feeds and

misalignment of the web and articles, particularly during relatively high speed trim operations. An additional degree of accuracy is also provided during such severing operation over that previously provided via use of accurate high speed conveying, guiding, and locating techniques. Additionally, feedback controlled operation is maintained to drive a servo pick and servo helper of a web feed delivery device associated with the treadle and trim press.

The paragraph beginning at line 6 on page 15 has been amended as follows:

As shown in Figure 1, drive wheel assembly 64 comprises a dual servo motor driven roller feed assembly referred to herein as servo pick assembly 60. According to one construction, follower wheels 70 and 76 are each formed from a high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic material. Also according to one construction, drive wheels 72 and 78 are each formed from an anodized aluminum material having a knurled radial outer surface that coacts with web 16.

The paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 16 has been amended as follows:

After severing articles 14 from web 16, the scrap web is delivered into a comminuting apparatus (not shown) that is provided directly beneath punch plate 30 and die plate 32. Several different comminuting apparatus ~~are~~ suitable for grinding up the resulting scrap web are disclosed in U.S. Patents

Nos. 4,687,144; 5,836,527; 5,860,607; and 5,893,523, each herein incorporated by reference. Scrap web 74 is accordingly forwarded into such a recycling, pulverizing machine where the scrap web is shredded and then later recycled to form a new web of thermoformable plastic material.

The paragraph beginning at line 19 on page 19 has been amended as follows:

Secondary guide member 84 further comprises a clamp bar 96 carried by attachment plate 94 and further supporting a guide strip 198. Guide strip 198 is constructed so as to provide a substantially greater amount of clearance between guide strip 198 and web guide plate 100 than is provided between guide strip 98 and web guide plate 100. Accordingly, guide strip 198 is spaced apart from plate 100 at least 3.5 thicknesses of a web which is to be received and processed therethrough. Preferably, web guide plate 100 is provided within a range of 3.5 to 10 thicknesses (or more) of a web of material. In this manner, delivery of a web and articles there along is principally guided by guide strip 98, and little or no contact occurs between guide strip 198 and such web during a processing operation.

In the Claims

Claims 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application.

New claims 23-31 have been added.

Claims 5 and 17 have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

5. (Amended) The article handling apparatus of claim 2 wherein the protuberance is an article formed in the web.

17. (Amended) The device of claim 11 wherein the guide strip is spaced apart from the guide plate less than four thicknesses of the web.

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